

AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification by adding the following two paragraphs at the end of the Summary section:

The present invention produces one or more persistently updated databases of available information related to one or more individuals, including identity information for such individuals. The information is obtained by persistently scanning the Internet to access one or more other publicly available databases. The persistent scanning is performed by the present invention without notifying the one or more other databases about identity information of the one or more individuals. This is achieved using an agent, such as a spider, robot or bot, which performs the scanning in a passive manner and in a comprehensive way that limits the ability of the subject of the scan to detect the identity of the party interested in information that may be contained in the subject's database. Further, the information gathered from a scanned database is replicated to a secure database associated with a privacy oriented meta data access and collection device, for example, so that analysis of the obtained information may be searched comprehensively and securely in a private and secured location. The subject of the scanning cannot identify the specific target of the scanning. Still further, any effort by the subject of a scan to detect a relevant individual identity associated with the scan is thwarted by using, for example, an assumed or fictitious identity to carry out the persistent scanning without identity information of the individual revealed to the subject of the scanning.

These and other features of the present invention will become apparent upon review of the detailed description, the accompany figure and the appended claims.